Oct. 7, 1941. W. R. BUXTON 2,258,316

FLEXIBLE POCKET RECEPTACLE

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Fig. 1.

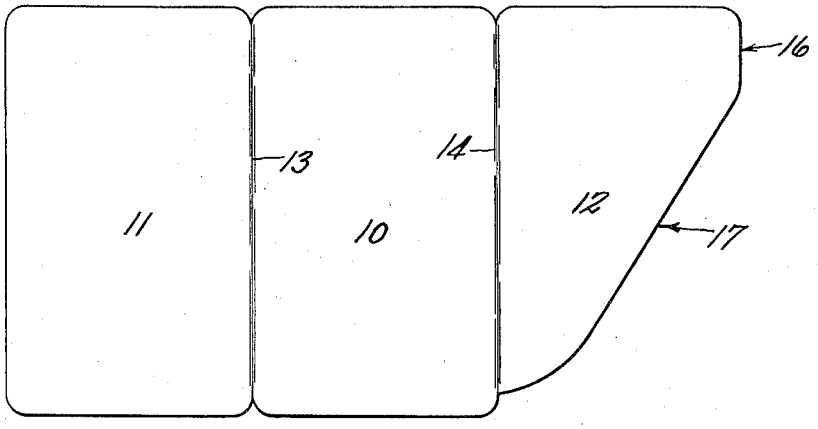


Fig. 3.

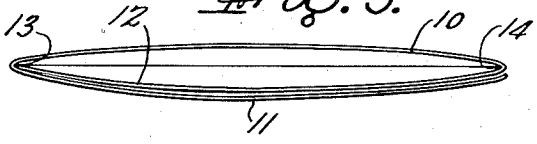


Fig. 2.

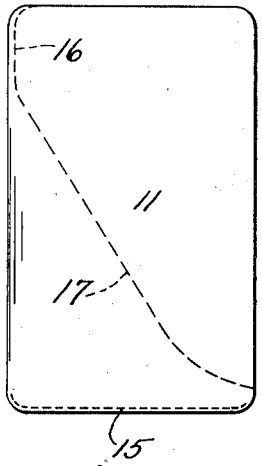


Fig. 4.

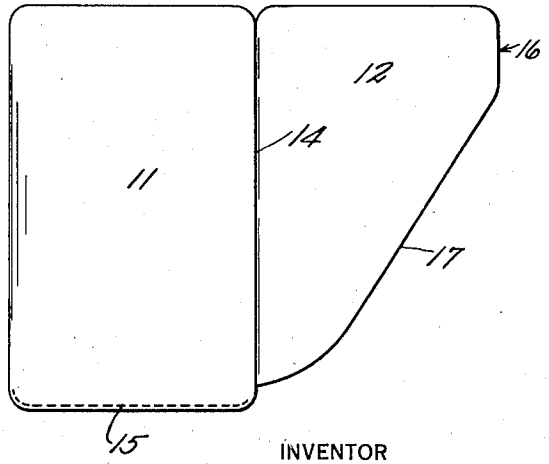
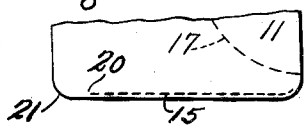


Fig. 9.



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Fig. 5.

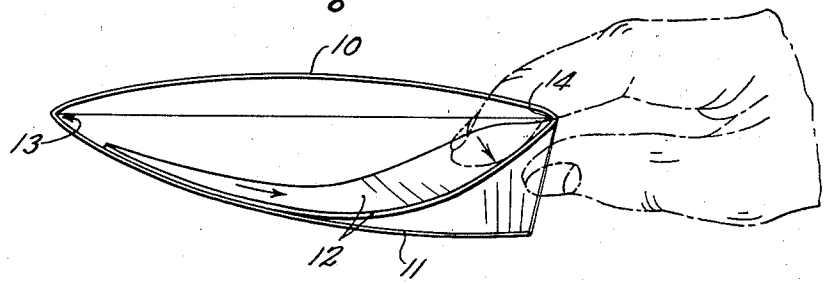


Fig. 6.

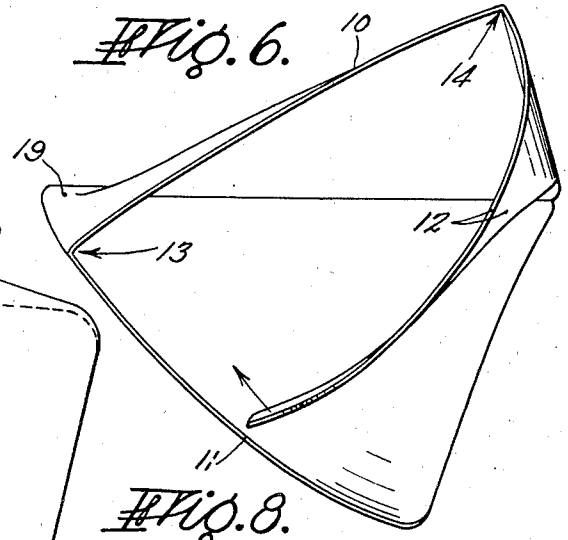


Fig. 7.

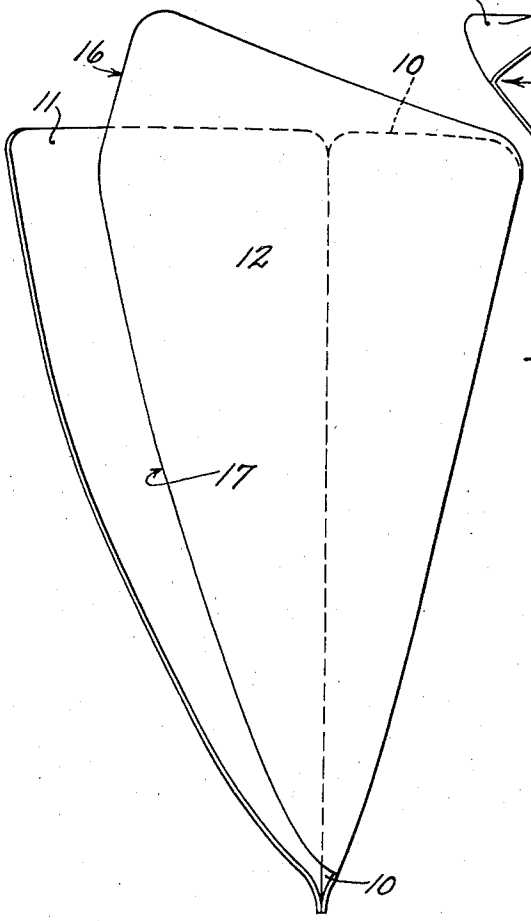
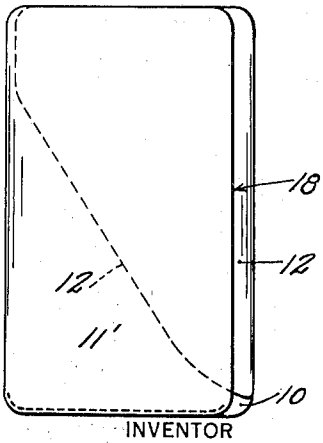


Fig. 8.



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Patented Oct. 7, 1941

2,258,316

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,258,316

FLEXIBLE POCKET RECEPTACLE

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Application November 20, 1940, Serial No. 366,341

5 Claims. (Cl. 150—39)

This invention relates to an improved flexible pocket receptacle of a type suitable for carrying letters and other papers. This application is a continuation in part of my co-pending application Serial No. 181,009, filed December 21, 1937.

Receptacles of this class are known as letter cases and usually comprise two superposed pieces of stiffly flexible leather or the like which are fastened together at their coincident margins along one side and one end only, leaving one end and one side open for the insertion and removal of papers from the case. An objection to this type of case is that papers will readily slide out through the open side.

This invention has for an object to provide, in a letter case of the class described formed of stiffly flexible material, a retaining flap, hingedly connected to the outer wall along the open side thereof and adapted to be inserted, by a swinging movement, between the inner and outer walls to retain between it and the outer wall such papers as are placed in the case.

Another object of the invention is to provide a retaining flap, for the above stated purpose, which is specially shaped to facilitate the insertion of it into or the removal of it from the case.

These and other objects will best appear from the following description and they will be pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention will be disclosed with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a small scale developed view of the blank from which the receptacle is made;

Fig. 2 is a small scale view of the completed receptacle, shown in closed position;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the closed receptacle drawn to a larger scale;

Fig. 4 is a view taken similarly to Fig. 2 but showing the retaining flap completely withdrawn from the receptacle;

Figs. 5 and 6 are top plan views showing the retaining flap at the start and near the end of its movement to open position, respectively;

Fig. 7 is an elevational view taken from the right hand side of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a front elevational view of a receptacle embodying a modification of the invention; and

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary view showing a modified structure.

Referring to these drawings; the letter case may be, and desirably is, made up from a single piece of stiffly flexible leather, or other similarly flexible material, cut out in the form shown in Fig. 1. As there shown, the leather blank includes two substantially rectangular portions 10 and 11, forming the outer and inner walls, respectively, of the case, and a flap 12 of irregular shape. The walls 10 and 11 are marked off by a crease or score line 13, forming a line of fold, about which the walls may be swung, the one relatively to the other into superposed relation. A similar line of fold 14 forms the opposite side edge of outer wall 10 and divides it off from flap 12. This flap may be swung about line 14 into and out of superposed relation with wall 10.

In making up the case, the flap 12 is swung about line 14 as an axis into superposed relation with wall 10; then wall 11 is swung about line 13 as an axis into superposed relation with flap 12 and the walls 10 and 11 are then fastened together along one end edge only by the stitches 15 or any other suitable means. The finished article then appears as shown in Fig. 2.

The connection between the walls 10 and 11 and between the walls 10 and 12 is essentially a pivotal connection and may be made in any suitable way. The parts do not, therefore, necessarily have to be integral although that is considered the best form.

In use, the papers to be carried in the case are placed between the outer wall 10 and the inner wall 11 and the flap 12 is swung in place to lie between the papers and the inner wall 11, thereby preventing the papers from sliding out from the one open side of the case. The case is carried in the pocket so that the open end lies uppermost, so that the papers will not escape from the case through its one open end. Moreover, the several walls are made of stiff leather and, when in closed position, as in Fig. 2, exert substantial pressure on the papers, tending to hold them in place by frictional engagement.

The flap 12 must be easily and conveniently movable to enable the user to insert and remove papers from the case and yet it must be held in place against accidental movement out of its normal closed position shown in Fig. 2. For these reasons, the flap has been constructed in the special form shown. Its inner edge, for a short distance near the open end of the case is, or may be, made parallel to the line of fold 14, as shown at 16, and may lie substantially coincident with or closely adjacent to the line of connection 13 between walls 10 and 11. However, except for this portion 16, the inner edge of flap 12 slopes outwardly and downwardly, as indicated at 17, to a point in the line of fold 14 near

but preferably slightly above the lower right hand corner of the case. An ideal form for the edge 17 would be a parabola but the exact form of this sloping edge, whether straight or curved, is not of major importance. What is important is that the inner edge has a general slope in the direction stated so that the flap extends inwardly in the case to different distances, decreasing progressively from the upper to the lower part of the case.

The arrangement just described enables one to remove the flap, wholly or partially out of the case, with ease and convenience. The resistance to withdrawal of the flap, if it were the same size and shape as wall 10, would increase progressively from a minimum near the open top to a maximum near the closed bottom of the case. To avoid such a condition, the flap 12 is cut away, as shown, to avoid any such increase in resistance to its movement and to provide a substantially uniform resistance to movement from the top to the bottom of the flap.

The arrangement is such that the flap 12 may be readily moved by inserting the forefinger between it and the upper wall at the upper right hand corner of the case, near the line of fold 14 and then moving it outwardly to pull out the flap as indicated in Fig. 5. The flap in being thus moved, bends to some extent near the point of application of the force by the finger and its trailing end acts like a cam to spread apart the walls 10 and 11 to an extent greatest near the upper part and least near the lower part of the case. The flap need not necessarily be moved entirely out from between the walls 10 and 11 as shown in Fig. 4. The flap may simply be moved far enough to spread the walls apart as shown in Fig. 6. Papers may then be easily removed from or inserted into the case through its open end. If the flap is not entirely removed but is left positioned as shown in Fig. 6, it may be restored by a slight pressure on the walls 10 and 11, which being squeezed toward one another will force the flap into place. The fact is that the walls and flaps are made of stiff enough leather to have considerable resiliency and, after an initial squeezing together of the walls 10 and 11 to start the movement of the flap, the remainder of its movement will be effected by the springing back of the walls and flap from their deflected positions.

It is not necessarily essential that the walls 10 and 11 be of exactly the same size and shape although that is the arrangement generally desired. In Fig. 8, a receptacle has been shown which is like that described in every way except that the free side edge 18 of the inner wall 11' is spaced from the line of fold 14. This arrangement has the advantage of enabling the flap 12 to be moved even more easily.

The invention thus affords a letter case with a retaining flap that can be readily inserted in and removed from the case and yet effectively performs its function of retaining against escape from the open side of the receptacle such papers as are placed therein and lie between the flap and outer wall.

As indicated at 19 in Fig. 6, the walls at the corner portion adjacent the closed side and end of the receptacle tend to hug together when the walls are held open by the stiffness of flap 12. This action is desirable to a degree since it tends to hold papers in the receptacle. In some cases, however, where the leather either because of its character or finish is of more than usual stiffness, this tightening at the corner may extend so far inwardly of the corner as to interfere with the removal of papers from and the insertion of papers into the receptacle. This may be overcome by increasing the flexibility at the corners as by stopping the stitching 15 short of the corner as indicated at 20 in Fig. 9, thus leaving a relatively short unattached portion 21 at the corner. By varying the length of the unattached portion 21 the area over which the walls hug together may be controlled. The length of the opening 21 is never large and, as will be understood, will preferably vary slightly with the degree of stiffness of the leather.

What I claim is:

1. A pocket receptacle, comprising, outer and inner substantially rectangular walls of stiffly flexible material and of substantially equal area superposed one upon the other and secured together along one side edge and one end edge to form between them a compartment for papers and the like, the remaining edges of said walls being unsecured, whereby the receptacle is open along one end and one side, and a retaining flap of flexible material hingedly connected to the other side edge of the outer wall and normally extending between said walls to retain said papers between it and the outer wall, said flap being of greatest width near the open end and of least width near the closed end of the receptacle and having its inner and free edge sloping from the point of maximum width to the point of minimum width, said edge engaging the inner surface of the inner wall as the retaining flap is swung toward a position outwardly of the compartment to thereby spread the inner and outer walls.

2. A pocket receptacle, comprising, outer and inner substantially rectangular walls of stiffly flexible material and of substantially equal area superposed one upon the other and secured together along one side edge and one end edge to form between them a compartment for papers and the like, the remaining edges of said walls being unsecured, whereby the receptacle is open along one end and one side, and a retaining flap of flexible material hingedly connected to the other side edge of the outer wall and normally extending between said walls to retain said papers between it and the outer wall, said flap having its portion of maximum width located near that end which lies adjacent to the open end of the receptacle and such width being substantially equal to the width of the outer wall, said flap having its portion of minimum width located near its opposite end which lies adjacent the closed end of the receptacle and decreasing progressively in width from the first-named toward the last-named portion, in the form of a curve, said edge forming a curved cam operable when the flap is swung toward a position outwardly of the compartment to engage the inner surface of the inner wall and thereby spread the inner and outer walls.

3. A pocket receptacle, comprising, outer and inner substantially rectangular walls of stiffly flexible material and of substantially equal area superposed one upon the other and secured together along one side edge and one end edge, said walls being unsecured along the remaining edges, the other side edge of the inner wall being spaced inwardly from the adjacent side edge of the outer wall, and a retaining flap of flexible material hingedly secured along one side edge to the last-named side edge of the outer wall and normally extending inwardly between said walls

to retain between it and the outer wall such papers as may be placed in said receptacle, said flap being of greatest width near the open end and of least width near the closed end of the receptacle and having its inner and free edge sloping from the point of maximum width to the point of minimum width, said edge engaging the inner surface of the inner wall as the retaining flap is swung toward a position outwardly of the compartment to thereby spread the inner and outer walls.

4. A pocket receptacle, comprising, outer and inner substantially rectangular walls of stiffly flexible material and of substantially equal area superposed one upon the other and secured together along one side edge and one end edge, said walls being unsecured along the remaining edges, the other side edge of the inner wall being spaced inwardly from the adjacent side edge of the outer wall, and a retaining flap of flexible material hingedly secured along one side edge to the last-named side edge of the outer wall and normally extending inwardly between said walls to retain between it and the outer wall such papers as may be placed in said receptacle, said flap having its portion of maximum width located near that end which lies adjacent to the open end of the receptacle and such width being substantially equal to the width of the outer wall, said flap having its portion of minimum width located near its opposite end which lies adjacent the closed end of the receptacle and decreasing progressively in width from the first-named toward the last-named portion, in the form of a curve, said edge forming a curved cam operable when the flap is swung toward a position outwardly of the compartment to engage the inner surface of the inner wall and thereby spread the inner and outer walls.

5. A pocket receptacle as in claim 1 in which the corner at the junction of the closed side and end edges is left open, whereby excessive tendency of the receptacle walls to hug together adjacent said corner when the walls are spread by the retaining flap is relieved.

WARNER R. BUXTON.